REMARKS

Claims 5, 11 and 15 have been placed in independent form. Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 2-5 and 7-20 have been amended in various aspects. New claims 21-24 have been added to further protect applicants' invention. Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 7-24 are pending and presented for examination in the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Merchant et al., as far as it pertains to the amended claims, and request reconsideration thereof.

The Merchant et al. patent relates to using a scanner to retrieve address information from a region on a source document for use in a paging system. The scanning is performed by the fax machine 14 in Fig. 1. The scanned information is then sent to a processor to make it suitable for selective call communication (paging). See column 4, lines 29-32. The processed information is then sent to the selective call terminal 28 for transmission.

However, there is no disclosure of the use of a communication mark with a first address for a first communication mode, such as a fax, and a second address for a second different type of communication mode, such as an email device. The Examiner's reference to Merchants' col. 3, lines 35-48, relates only to sending fax information to a call paging system. There is no disclosure of multiple different communication modes and the addresses therefor.

Claim 5 has been amended to add the phrase "different type of" to clarify that there are multiple different modes of communication. Likewise, claim 5 has been amended by adding the word "communication" to modify "address," in order to distinguish this address from a "storage address," that is referenced in later claims. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended in a similar fashion and distinguish over Merchant et al.

Referring to claim 7, the reference to Merchant et al., col. 1, lines 21-29 refers to voice message paging. It does not refer to another communication mode besides paging. The reference to col. 3, lines 30-34 refers to multiple means of providing

information to a single paging communication mode. It does not disclose multiple transmitter communication modes.

The dependencies of claims 2-4 and 8 have been amended to make those claims dependent on claim 5.

Referring to claim 9, Merchant does not meet the bar code limitation disclosed therein. The Merchant et al. reference to col. 5, lines 29-34 and 39-44 refers to ASCII. It does not reference bar coding.

Referring to claim 10, the reference to col. 5, lines 29-34, does not relate to encoding not visible to the naked eye.

Referring to claim 11, the reference to Merchant et al. at col. 7, lines 16-21, refers to a pager receiver that uses a memory to store addresses. It does not disclose a communication mark that includes a storage address where a communication address is located.

Referring to claim 12, the reference to Merchant et al., col. 3, lines 17-23, does not disclose the step of accessing the storage address over a network. Rather, it refers to sending information to be transmitted over a network to a transmitting device.

Referring to claim 13, the reference to Merchant et al. at col. 1, lines 21-24 relates to ways of originating a page, not to a URL.

Regarding claim 15, the reference by the examiner to Merchant et al., col. 6, lines 27-32, pertains to making the information available at the pager in a desired format including ASCII text, characters, graphics and audio. The reference to col. 11, lines 30-32, refers not to the communications transmitter, but rather to the pager receiver. In this description, Merchant et al. explains that the pager searches a received message for its own address, and if it finds a correlation, then allows further processing to proceed. It does not refer to determining at the transmitter whether a particular communication mode designated by a communication mark is available and, if not, transmitting in a different communication mode.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5 in apparatus format and should be allowable for the reasons cited for claim 5. A new set of independent claims has been added which are similar to claims 11 and 15.

Likewise, program product independent claims that are similar to claims 11 and 15 have been added, to further protect applicants' invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and Remarks, the present application is in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is requested and an early passage to issue of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

William T. Ellis
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 26,874

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5416
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

Marked up Rewritten Claims:

2. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said locating step comprises scanning said medium.

3. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said locating step comprises the step of locating said communication mark at a predetermined location on said medium.

4. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said locating step comprises locating an address relative to a predetermined mark on said medium.

5. (Amended) A method [as defined in claim 1,] for providing automatic communication addressing comprising the steps of:

locating a communication mark, if one is present, on a medium containing information;

obtaining at least one communication address directly or indirectly from said communication mark;

inputting said communication address into an address function of a communication device; and

initiating a communication of said information to said communication address through said communication device;

wherein said communication mark includes a first communication address for a first communication mode, and a second communication address for a second different type of communication mode.

7. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said communication device comprises at least two different types of communication modes.

8. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], further comprising the step of adding a communication mark to said information prior to initiating said communication.

9. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said communication mark is a bar code.

10. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said communication mark is not visible to the unaided human eye.

11. (Amended) A method [as defined in claim 1,] for providing automatic communication addressing comprising the steps of:

locating a communication mark, if one is present, on a medium containing information;

obtaining at least one communication address directly or indirectly from said communication mark;

inputting said communication address into an address function of a communication device; and

initiating a communication of said information to said communication address through said communication device;

wherein said communication mark is a storage address [reference] to a location where [an] a communication address is stored.

12. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 11 [14], further comprising the step of accessing said storage address over a network to obtain said communication address.

13. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 11 [14], further comprising the step of accessing a URL address wherein said communication address is located.

14. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], wherein said communication device is a voice communication device.

15. (Amended) A method [as defined in claim 6,] for providing automatic communication addressing comprising the steps of:

locating a communication mark, if one is present, on a medium containing information;

obtaining at least one communication address directly or indirectly from said communication mark;

inputting said communication address into an address function of a communication device; and

initiating a communication of said information to said communication address through said communication device;

wherein said communication mark includes a first communication address for a first communication mode, and a second communication address for a second different type of communication mode,

further comprising the steps of

determining if said communication mode for said first communication address is available at said communication device; and

[wherein said determining step comprises the step of,]when it is determined that said communication mode for said first communication address is not available at said communication device, sending said second communication address for the second different type of communication mode and said information to the [a different] communication device.

16. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], further comprising the step of storing said address obtained directly or indirectly from said communication mark.

17. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], further comprising the steps of determining a name of an addressee corresponding to said obtained address; and displaying said addressee name to a user.

18. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], further comprising the step of adding a new communication mark to said information that includes directly or indirectly a new address to be obtained relative to said obtained at least one address.

19. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 5 [1], further comprising the step of adding a communication mark to said information that deletes an address or a reference to an address from said located communication mark.

20. (Amended) A system for providing automatic communication addressing comprising:

logic for locating a communication mark on a medium containing information wherein said communication mark includes a first communication address for a first communication mode, and second communication address for a second different type of communication mode;

logic for obtaining at least one address directly or indirectly from said communication mark;

logic for inputting said address into an address function of a communication device; and

logic for initiating a communication of said information to said address through said communications device.